

**CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)**  
**OPENING STATEMENT FOR H-PRIZE MARK-UP**  
**May 3, 2006**

I want to welcome everyone to what I assume will be a very brief mark-up on a bill to push a set of technologies that could turn out to be a key to the U.S. energy future.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman Inglis for bringing this idea forward and Mr. Lipinski for introducing the bill with him; Chairman Biggert for her tireless efforts to improve the bill and for making sure we stay on course in our efforts to promote a comprehensive R&D agenda; Ms. Jackson-Lee for her helpful amendment recognizing the role that could be played by minority education institutions and businesses; and all the Members of this Committee who have cosponsored this bill.

The bill before us today is one sensible element of a comprehensive strategy to give the American people more energy options than they have today. If – and admittedly it's a big if – if we can figure out ways to make hydrogen affordably using nuclear or renewable fuels, and if we can figure out ways to make affordable, practical hydrogen storage tanks and fuel cells, then we will be able to tap a non-polluting fuel. The potential benefits are worth the effort.

And precisely because the technology is long-range, prizes are a logical way to get as many people working on hydrogen in as many ways as possible. This is a useful supplement to our ongoing Department of Energy (DOE) research and development (R&D) programs, which must and will continue.

So this is a simple, logical bill that builds on our past interest in prize programs. The amendment that Mr. Inglis will offer improves the bill in response to last week's testimony and concerns expressed by Members, including me. The substitute will clarify the responsibilities of whatever private entity DOE contracts with to run the program. And the substitute reduces the financial exposure of the federal government by an order of magnitude.

So I think we're ready to move forward on this bill, which I expect will be on the House floor this month.

I urge its adoption.